MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 April 1981

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Foreign Ministry Statement--A 16 April Iranian Foreign Ministry statement, broadcast by Tehran radio, accepted a denial by Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti that he had made pro-Iraqi remarks during an interview. The Foreign Ministry said that its earlier statement, on 14 April, strongly criticizing Chatti had been issued because at the time he had not yet denied making the remarks, which the ministry said it had learned of through a PARS report. It added that the criticisms contained in the 14 April statement remain valid for any individual ordelegation holding pro-Iraqi views. PARS issued a statement on 16 April denying responsibility for the misunderstanding. PARS claimed that it had merely made available a report monitored from Jerusalem radio. Tehran radio also broadcast a statement issued by President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr criticizing the Foreign Ministry for issuing the 14 April statement, pointing out that it was based on a report broadcast by Jerusalem radio and had not been issued according to correct procedures. Asserting that the issuance of the statement was a violation of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's 16 March guidelines to government officials, the president's statement said the issue will be referred to the three-man committee investigating differences among Iran's leaders.

Syrian Involvement--Citing Arab League sources, the Jordanian daily AR-RA'Y reported that last week Iraq submitted a memorandum to the Arab League secretary general concerning Syria's participation on Iran's side in the Iraq-Iran war. The memorandum said Iraq had forced a Syrian plane "supporting Iran" to land in Iraq and had discovered secret documents on board. Iraq has reserved the right to take whatever action it deems fit to deal with this matter.

Military Situation--An Iraqi General Command communique, broadcast by Baghdad radio, and accounts broadcast by Tehran radio reported continued fighting along western and southern fronts. Tehran radio said Iraqi artillery fire on Abadan damaged several Iranian oil installations.

Iran

Bani-Sadr Queries Mahdavi-Kani--A letter from President Bani-Sadr to Interior Minister Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani, broadcast textually by Tehran radio, demanded an explanation for the suspension of byelections in certain constitutencies that have no Majlis deputies. He pointed out that the Majlis recently approved the holding of such byelections and that the Constitution forbids the suspension of elections unless the president suggests they be suspended and three-quarters of the Majlis agree.

Raja'i on Foreign Ministry--PARS reported that Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i has said that until a foreign minister is appointed, he will run the Foreign Ministry.

MIZAN Director Released--Citing ENQELAB-E ESLAMI, AFP reported that Esma'il Yazdi, director of the newspaper MIZAN, who was arrested along with MIZAN publisher Reza Sadr on 6 April, was released after posintg bail of $140,000. Sadr, it added, has refused to post bail.

Lebanon

Israeli Raid--Citing an IDF spokesman, Jerusalem radio reported that Israeli Air Force planes attacked a terrorist base in the Ra's al-'Ayn area of southern Lebanon, accurately hitting their targets. Confirming the raid, Beirut radio said Ar-Rashidiyah camp was also hit and 10 casualties resulted.

Bashir al-Jumayyil Statement--According to Voice of Lebanon radio, Phalangist military commander Bashir al-Jumayyil told a Beirut press conference that he is ready to hold a dialogue with Syria in order to find an in-depth solution to the Lebanese problem. He said the Phalangists are willing to offer certain guarantees to Syria provided the guarantees are mutual, and he asserted that his forces could guarantee that Lebanon would not become a base for violence against Syria.

EC Chairman Arrives--Beirut radio reported that Christoph van der Klaauw, Netherlands foreign minister and chairman of the EC Council of Ministers, arrived in Lebanon to follow up the European initiative on the Middle East. The radio later reported that Van der Klaauw met with President Ilyas Sarkis, after which Van der Klaauw said they had discussed the Lebanese crisis and that Europe is continuing its efforts to help the Lebanese Government resolve it.

Syria-Jordan

Jordanian Charge d'Affaires in Beirut Hisham al-Muhaysin, who was released in the Lebanese town of Shtawrah on 14 April after having been kidnapped and held since 6 February by the Lebanese national confrontation front, told a Damascus television correspondent during a videotaped interview that he had been well treated by the front's "comrades" during his capitivity. He stressed that the front is a strictly Lebanese organization and that Syria had nothing to do with his kidnapping. Al-Muhaysim expressed appreciation and gratitude for Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's efforts to obtain his release and expressed his pleasure at being in Damascus. Later Damascus radio reports said President al-Asad met with Al-Muhaysin, who then left for Jordan. On returning to Jordan, Al-Muhaysin told a press conference, broadcast by Amman television, that he had gone to Damascus instead of Beirut after his release because he had been handed over to the Arab Deterrent Forces and given no choice. He added that he had been asked to thank President al-Asad and had stayed in Damascus for 2 days because the Syrian authorities had told him he needed a rest. He declined to answer further questions.

Palestine National Council

In a 15 April speech to the Palestine National Council (PNC) session, reported by Damascus radio, Fatah official Salah Khalaf praised Syria's steadfastness against the Camp David agreements and against "imperialist-Zionist" campaigns. He criticized the Jordanian regime, calling for suspension of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, and he said that alternate methods must be found to do the work of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee. According to a 15 April commentary by Damascus radio's "Palestine Broadcast," the majority of those attending the PNC session have agreed that the European initiative on the Middle East is merely a "diplomatic maneuver" under U.S. aegis that serves the Camp David signatories and that responding to the initiative under such circumstances would be a wast of time. Fatah representative to the PNC 'Isam as-Sartawi resigned from the council, QNA reported, because he was refused the right to defend himself before the PNC concerning his recent contacts with certain Israelis. The report added that As-Sartawi was violently attacked for such contacts.

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KARMAL, DOST RECEIVE UN ENVOY DE CUELLAR

LD161712 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the DRA, this afternoon at the Revolution Council headquarters received Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN deputy secretary general for political affairs, who is a personal representative of Kurt Waldheim, and spoke to him in a friendly atmosphere. Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost also attended the meeting.

According to another report, the foreign minister this morning received the UN deputy secretary general for political affairs and his colleagues for the (?third) time and spoke to him about matters of interest. Mohammad Shaf'i, the general director of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, was also present at this meeting.

The Foreign Ministry Information Department reports that the UN deputy secretary general for political affairs and his colleagues took part in the luncheon that was given in his honor by Shah Mohammad Dost, the foreign minister, at the reception hall of the Foreign Ministry. The luncheon was attended by Shaf'i Daneshjow, general political affairs director at the Foreign Ministry, some other high-ranking officials and (Bonif), the representative of the UN Development Program in Afghanistan.

According to another report, the UN deputy secretary general for political affairs and his accompanying delegation, accompanied by the general director of political affairs of the Foreign Ministry and the head of the UN Development Program in Kabul, this afternoon viewed the historical exhibits at the Afghan National Museum. The general director for museums at the Ministry of Information and Culture and the staff of the Afghan National Museum spoke about the various historical exhibits that have been collected from different parts of Afghanistan and which were praised by the guests.

AFP: SOVIETS RECAPTURE PART OF QANDAHAR CITY

BK151259 Hong Kong AFP in English 1241 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Islamabad, 15 Apr (AFP)--Soviet troops have launched an offensive in Afghanistan's rebel stronghold of Qandahar and recaptured part of the city, according to a news agency run by the Moslem resistance. Violent fighting was continuing but communist forces were now in a better position to take on the estimated 3,000 insurgents there, the agency admitted. Latest reports reaching Pakistan said helicopters yesterday airlifted reinforcements to Soviet troops inside the besieged city after resistance fighters prevented supplies being driven in.

Western diplomats here confirmed that violent fighting broke out last week in Qandahar, which is about 285 miles (450 kms) southwest of the capital Kabul. The Afghan official responsible for law maintenance was among those wounded, they said. The resistance forces' news agency said Moslem guerrillas of the Hezb-e Eslami group knocked out a Soviet tank in the area of Qandahar's Shikarpur bazaar and killed two of its crew. Government forces had to evacuate the bazaar after suffering heavy losses, the report said. A French reporter just back from Afghanistan confirmed that Qandahar had been surrounded by Soviet and Afghan troops for several days.

Day patrols were seen in the capital last week, accompanied by low-altitude helicopter flights on the edge of the city. Army roadblocks had been set up at the entrance to Kabul and security forces were conducting house-to-house searches. Reports reaching here said that the victims of recent fighting included five members of President Babrak Karmal's secret police, the Khad, who died when their jeep came under fire on April 13 near the Kabul home of Khad's chief, a Doctor Nagib.

GANDHI REAFFIRMS AFGHAN, INDIAN OCEAN POLICIES

BK170617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has reaffirmed that India has always been against any military intervention. In an interview with the correspondent of a leading Portuguese daily published in Lisbon, she said that external interventions are to be found not only in the Indian Ocean but also elsewhere in the world.

Reaffirming India's stand on the Afghan issue, Mrs Gandhi said withdrawal of foreign troops is necessary but at the same time it should be ensured that there is no other form of infiltration or interference by neighboring countries into Afghanistan. About the Nonaligned Movement she said it has proved its [word indistinct].

UK PRIME MINISTER THATCHER CONTINUES OFFICIAL VISIT

Address to Parliament

BK161630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said in New Delhi today that her government is ready to join others, including Afghanistan's neighbors and permanent members of the Security Council, in finding a political solution to the Afghan crisis. Addressing members of both houses of Parliament in the central hall, she recalled that Britain has put forward certain proposals for a political solution of the problem. Britain, she added, believes that a settlement is needed in Afghanistan that will leave the country free from foreign troops and restore the confidence of its people.

Mrs Thatcher rounded off a crowded day of engagements with the address to members of Parliament in which she dwelt at length on India-British relations, free India's achievements, the problem of immigrants in her country and the international situation.

Mrs Thatcher and Mrs Gandhi had further talks today at which they continued their review of the international situation and also discussed bilateral relations including the controversial British Nationality Bill. The All India Radio's special correspondent understands that their talks covered practically all the problems of the Indian immigrants in Britain in the context of the implications of the nationality bill. Mrs Gandhi urged Mrs Thatcher to view these problems from a human angle and resolve them in the same spirit. She told her that the discriminatory elements in the bill have shaken the confidence of the immigrants and made them apprehensive of their future. Mrs Gandhi said that even under the agreed quota Britain's intake of Indians was very slow and there was a long list of persons holding British passports waiting to go there.

Mrs Thatcher said that suggestions and concerns conveyed to Britain would be taken into account when considering amendments to the bill. She also referred to this problem in her address to MP's and said there is nothing in the bill which discriminates against any racial or national group. Control of immigration into Britain is essential to maintain good race relations. She emphasized that all genuine visitors are welcome.

The subject also came up when the British press accompanying Mrs Thatcher met with Mrs Gandhi today. Mrs Gandhi reportedly told them that the confidence of the people of Asian origin in Britain had been badly shaken by the bill and the racial incidents in that country. Something has to be done to restore their confidence.

At the resumed discussion on Afghanistan and west Asia, Mrs Gandhi is believed to have told Mrs Thatcher that each country looks at such problems from its own angle and in terms of its geographical position and historical experience.

Such differences of approach should not lead to a lack of hope because the purpose of the talks is to help understand the basic concerns.

Mrs Gandhi also drew Mrs Thatcher's attention to Britain's restricted trade practices and protectionist tendencies which had resulted in India incurring a trade deficit of 230 million pound sterling annually. The entire gamut of India-British economic relations was discussed when Finance Minister Venkataraman and Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee had separate meetings with Mrs Thatcher. Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao also met her mainly for a discussion on North-South issues.

Mrs Thatcher began her address to the MP's with the fullsome tribute to India's democratic tradition. She noted that both Britain and India had changed their governments in a short period through parliamentary elections. Britain, she said, admires India's priceless contribution to world civilization. She spoke of India's great economic potential saying Britain believes that aid to India is the soundest of investments. The present situation is an impressive base on which to build. Britain and India know each other, trust each other and can work with each other.

Welcoming the British prime minister, Vice President Hidayatulla called for concerted action by all peace-loving nations to defuse international tension. Lok Sabha Speaker Bal Ram said India has genuine regard for Britain's political institutions and traditions.

Speaking soon after Mrs Thatcher, Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi said the specter of cold war peeping in our door has caused India grave apprehensions. She referred to the dangers of giving sophisticated arms to Pakistan about which the two prime ministers had already spoken to each other. Mrs Gandhi added India always advocates the peaceful resolution of disputes. She noted that Mrs Thatcher had also spoken movingly of peace, and said Britain with its tradition of diplomacy and dialogue could assert its influence for political rather than military solutions. Military solutions were short-lived giving rise to new problems with long-lasting and wide-ranging consequences. Mrs Gandhi welcomed the British commitment on nationality and immigration and expressed the hope that every effort would now be made to ensure that no group has cause for grievance.

Cooperation Agreements Signed

BK161639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] A number of agreements were signed today for collaboration between India and Britain in industrial, technological and scientific fields. The papers were signed in the presence of Mrs Gandhi and Mrs Thatcher at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Five memoranda of understanding covered cooperation in key sectors of the Indian economy. Notably they cover the coal sector, power sector, science and technology and activities in space. In addition, the two sides signed agreements on aid for the Thal fertilizer project, local cost [word indistinct] and a double taxation convention. The memorandum on industries and trade covers important sectors including railways, oil and gas development, petrochemicals, electronics and telecommunications. The two governments have agreed to make special efforts to increase bilateral trade.

ZIAUL HAQ STRESSES COMMITMENT TO NONALIGNED POLICY

AU161530 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 8 Apr 81 pp 1,7

[BORBA special correspondent Rade Brajovic report on statement made by Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, to BORBA and NOVOSTI--date and place not given]

[Text] Islamabad, 7 Apr--The independent policy of Yugoslavia inspired the idea of nonalignment from the rival blocs. The decision that the nonaligned countries should meet in Belgrade in 1961 was in recognition of the prominent role of the Yugoslav people, led by Marshal Tito, the great freedom fighter and world statesman. The resistance to all outside pressures directed at forcing the Nonaligned Movement to deviate from its original course, as set by its founders, must continue.

These are some of the key thoughts Pakistani President Gen Ziaul Haq expressed in a special statement to BORBA and NOVOSTI in connection with the great jubilee of the Nonaligned Movement, the 20th anniversary of the first Belgrade conference of nonaligned countries. The ministerial conference in New Delhi in February marked the great jubilee with a special session, and with the decision to proclaim 1 September--the anniversary of that first conference held in Belgrade--as the day of nonalignment.

Yugoslavia and Tito

In the capital of India--one of the 25 participants in the first summit meeting and a founder of the movement--it was decided that the 20th anniversary of the historic event should also be marked in the United Nations, and with special appropriate programs by each of the nearly 100 member countries of the Nonaligned Movement.

In Pakistan, which became a full member of the movement at the sixth summit meeting in Havana--and this was assessed as an important contribution to the constant quality of spreading the movement and strengthening nonalignment--the jubilee has already begun to be celebrated as a great holidary. President Ziaul Haq began his statement to BORBA and NOVOSTI with the jubilee--with greetings to Yugoslavia:

"On behalf of the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I want to convey my warmest greetings to Yugoslavia's people and leadership on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the historic conference of the heads of states or governments of the nonaligned countries which was held in Belgrade. The decision of the nonaligned countries to meet in Belgrade in 1961 was in recognition of the prominent role of the Yugoslav people under the leadership of the great freedom fighter and world statesman, Marshal Tito, in resisting the forces of tyranny and hegemonism, and devoted to promoting and defending the interests of the nonaligned countries.

"As I said in my speech at the summit meeting in Havana, which was attended by President Tito and at which Pakistan was admitted to the Nonaligned Movement as a full member: "Yugoslavia's independent policy inspired the idea of nonalignment from the rival blocs which were formed after World War II. We welcome the vision and steadiness of Marshal Tito, who transformed this concept at the historic summit meeting of 25 countries in Belgrade into a movement which now represents a united force of nearly 100 nations throughout the world."

Pakistan and Nonalignment

Although Pakistan only became a full member of the movement in Havana, its links with the idea of nonalignment have deeper and longer roots.

President Ziaul Haq continued: In the early fifties, Pakistan joined the pioneer efforts of a small group of African and Asian countries which met in Colombo, Bogota and Bandung to discuss the common problems of the Third World countries. At the historic Bandung Conference in 1955, Pakistan helped formulate the declaration on world peace and cooperation, and elaborate the five principles of peaceful coexistence. Although Pakistan is a new member of the Nonaligned Movement, its policy has been continually stimulated by the spirit of solidarity with the movement.

Pakistan's position was identical with that of the nonaligned countries on all the greatest political, economic and moral questions faced by the international community. Adherence to peaceful coexistence and support for the universal struggle of the oppressed people against colonialism, Zionism, racism and hegemonism also were characteristic of Pakistani foreign policy.

President Ziaul Haq spoke about the current international situation and the role of the Nonaligned Movement, saying: The recent developments and trends in the world situation illustrate in particular the importance and relevance of the Nonaligned Movement. There can be no doubt that a sharp increase in international tension is obvious, together with a corresponding weakening of detente. This has contributed to a significant increase in the danger to world peace and security. We are most alarmed by the fact that the countries of the Nonaligned Movement are exposed to military intervention by the superpowers, either directly or indirectly; this flagrantly violates the principles of the UN Charter. This has threatened the independence and sovereignty of the nonaligned countries and created a climate of uncertainty.

Principles and Nonalignment

In such a situation, an even more active involvement of the Nonaligned Movement is necessary, the Pakistani president said, adding: The Nonaligned Movement must again confirm its clear obligation and orientation to the fundamental principles of nonalignment. The movement cannot but continue its resistance to all outside pressures which try to deviate the movement from the original course established by its founders. It is only in this way that the movement can preserve its credibility as an effective force of peace and justice. On the other hand, silence in the cases of clear violations of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the nonaligned countries is the same as forgiving the policy of force, and this unavoidably weakens the role of the Nonaligned Movement as an independent moral force in international affairs.

In this connection, the Pakistani president continues, I am happy to be able to say that the conference of ministers of foreign affairs of the nonaligned countries held in New Delhi recently was a positive event, primarily because it has to a significant degree renewed the true spirit of nonalignment. As regards the main problems threatening world peace--the tragedy of Palestine caused by the Zionist aggression and expansionism and the military interventions in Afghanistan and Kampuchea--the Nonaligned Movement adopted a position in accord with its principles.

This is an indication of the renewed determination of the vast majority of nonaligned countries to support the basic principles of nonaggression, noninterference and nonuse of force in international affairs. The New Delhi conference also reestablished the movement's credibility, demonstrating that whenever the rights of peoples and countries are violated, the movement can operate positively and seek solutions in accordance with the prevailing principles of rights and obligations of countries.

Blocs and Unity

Continuing his statement, the Pakistan president assessed the relations between Yugoslavia and Pakistan as excellent, and added: Even before Pakistan became a full member of the Nonaligned Movement, the two countries cooperated in international forums. We have always clearly supported the struggle colonialism, neocolonialism, imperialism, racism and hegemony. In the search of the developing countries to establish a new international economic system, we have had close and fruitful cooperation. While recognizing general interests, Yugoslavia demonstrated sympathy toward Pakistan's long desire to become a full member of the Nonaligned Movement. It is significant that in Belgrade in 1978 Pakistan attended the nonaligned conference [ministerial meeting] for the first time as a guest.

Gen Ziaul Haq concluded: I want to emphasize that, in addition to sharing a common position on many important international issues, there also exists a close identity of view on what represents the essence of nonalignment. Both Yugoslavia and Pakistan continue with the policy of independence from the two blocs. Linked neither with the East nor the West, the two countries believe that the Nonaligned Movement must retain its nonbloc character. They believe that the unity and integrity of the movement depend above all upon the readiness of its members to follow and defend those principles that were established when the movement was founded 20 years ago in Belgrade.

SHAHI REPLIES TO INDIAN STATEMENTS ON ARMS ACQUISITION

BK170838 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Agha Shahi has described as unjust the allegations made in recent statements by the Indian prime minister and foreign minister that Pakistan, by arming itself fully, has created a danger for India. The foreign minister said that these allegations are baseless. The Indian foreign minister's statement that the process of normalization has been hampered is also unjustifiable. He told a news conference in Islamabad this morning that these statements have created an atmosphere of artificial crisis in bilateral relations.

Agha Shahi regretted that India has launched a campaign both inside and outside the country against Pakistan's possible acquisition of certain defense equipment. He said the Indian Government is (?spreading) fictitious rumors about the intentions and objectives of the talks between Pakistan and the United States. Agha Shahi said that his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig will cover bilateral relations only. It will also provide us an opportunity to assess the possibilities of meeting our vital defense requirements.

PARS DENIES RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPORT ON CHATTI

LD161800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Apr 81

[PARS statement issued on 16 April]

[Text] In his exalted name: Given that the Foreign Ministry in its statement today cites PARS as the source reporting the interview given by Habib Chatti, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference, it is necessary to make the following points:

1. Given that the country's officials ought to be kept informed about broadcasts made by foreign radios about Iran, and considering the poison-spreading by the imperialist media organs and the need for officials to make appropriate and logical decisions, PARS is engaged daily in monitoring these broadcasts and forwarding them to the country's officials.

2. The utterances made by the radio of the occupying forces [Israel] in connection with Chatti's interview, which was also cited in the Foreign Ministry statement without naming the source, were heard on that radio's Arabic language program at 0800 on 11 April and were subsequently made available to officials.

3. Needless to say, PARS accepts no responsibility for using such reports, which are not confirmed by this news agency or dispatched on our Telex.

BANI-SADR DEMANDS EXPLANATION FOR SUSPENDING ELECTIONS

LD161318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Apr 81

["Text" of Iranian President Bani-Sadr's 16 April letter to Interior Minister Mahdavi-Kani]

[Text] In his exalted name: To Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdavi-Kani, esteemed interior minister of the country: Pursuant to my letters of 20 January 1981 and February 1981, and your excellency's letter of 31 January 1981; in view of the Majlis' recent approvals in connection with by-elections and the need to act in accordance with principle No 68 of the Constitution, which does not permit the suspension of elections in any electoral constituency without a prior suggestion by the president of the republic approved by three-quarters of the total number of deputies and sanctioned by the Council of Guardians; in view of Article No 13 of the law on the Council of Guardians' supervision of elections to the Islamic Consultative Assembly, which stipulates that the Interior Ministry is dutybound, with the approval of the Council of Guardians, to hold reelections in accordance with the regulations at the first opportunity in those constituencies where elections have been either suspended or declared null and void; and in view of Article No 6 of the law on Majlis elections, which stipulates that voting should take place throughout the country in 1 day and in a minimum of 10 hours, it is essential that you, at your earliest convenience, should put forward all the reasons that the Ministry of the Interior has for suspending elections in certain constituencies where elections have either been suspended or declared null and void or that have remained without a deputy for any other reason, so that action might be taken in accordance with the Constitution.

[Signed] President Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr

DIRECTOR OF BANNED PAPER REPORTEDLY RELEASED

NC161906 Paris AFP in English 1700 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Tehran, 16 Apr (AFP)--Esma'il Yazdi, director of the banned liberal daily newspaper MIZAN who was arrested April 6, was released from prison here yesterday after posting bail of 10 million rials (140,000 dollars), the ISLAMIC REVOLUTION newspaper reported today.

Yazdi was let go after being questioned for six hours at the Tehran court house, the ISLAMIC REVOLUTION said. It did not say what charges he faces.

MIZAN, whose directors included former Premier Mehdi Bazargan, was shut down the day after police arrested Mr Yazdi and MIZAN publisher Reza Sadr, charged with libel and breach of national security. He has refused to post bail.

RAJA'I OUTLINES FOREIGN POLICY POSITION

LD161256 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Bureau, this morning the prime minister introduced the new under-secretaries [of the Minsitry of Foreign Affairs] at a meeting with the personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In his speech, Raja'i described the general (?line) of Iran's foreign policy.

The supervisor of the Foreign Ministry of Iran emphasized that Iran's foreign policy was based upon the slogan: neither East nor West. He said: Implementation of this policy needs a great investment, which has already been accepted by the Iranian nation, which will continue to accept it in the future. He went on to say: For us, nonimplementation of this slogan is equal to death; we do not want to rely on one of the powers in order to live. Raja'i also added: Iran's Foreign Ministry is the form and reflection of the Islamic Revolution of Iran outside the country; the revolution must be crystalized in any embassy you go to. Our choices for embassies are based on this principle and our negotiations with foreign countries will follow this line exactly.

The supervisor of the Foreign Ministry pointed out that Iran does not accept political wheeling and dealing, saying: Political isolation has its own definition for us, which comes from our ideology. If we side with the big countries against the samll ones, we consider ourselves in complete isolation even though we are with the powerful. However, if we are only with one Muslim and committed country, not only are we not isolated but we are present everywhere. We do not implement Mo'aviyeh style [historic-religious villian, symbol of hypocrisy] policies even if we are considered to be isolated.

TURKISH COMMERCE MINISTER ARRIVES 17 APRIL

GF170719 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] The Turkish commerce minister arrived in Tehran today at the head of a four-man delegation. The Turkish delegation will hold talks with officials in our country on the development of trade.

3-MAN COMMITTEE MEETS IN INTERIOR MINISTRY

LD162324 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] The third meeting of the three-man committee investigating the differences [between President Bani-Sadr and his opponents] continued this afternoon at the Interior Ministry.

In an interview given to a PARS correspondent afterwards, the spokesman for the body, Mohammad Yazdi, commented on the issues raised in the meeting, saying: The committee's duty is to deal solely with the complaints made in connection with possible offenses committed by officials mentioned in the imam's order addressed to Mahdavi-Kani; these gentlemen are the president, the prime minister, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis and the president of the Supreme Court.

In another part of the interview, spokesman Mohammad Yazdi said: During our work, we encountered an issue related to the interpretation of an article of the Constitution. As this issue comes under the authority of the Council of Guardians, it was decided to write a letter to the council to clarify the issue. Another point raised at the meeting concerned preventing the disruption of work; it was decided to reduce the period of time allowed the prime minister, in a letter to make information available and to ask them to forward the information and evidence to the body sooner than the date specified earlier. [sentence as heard]

He added: It was also decided to hold a meeting in which all parties would take part--that is, the president, the prime minister and the minister of state for executive affairs. As for the date of the meeting, this will be announced later; it should be specified, taking into account the availability of the gentlemen.

KHOMEYNI ISSUES ARMED FORCES DAY MESSAGE

LD162312 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text of message by Ayatollah Khomeyni on Iran's Armed Forces Day, 18 April--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. On the eve of 18 April, the day of the brave and committed Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic, I offer my congratulations to the nation of Iran, the armed forces and the struggling army. May this year be blessed for the army, the armed forces and the nation. The nation possesses an army that through its great endeavors and courageous self-sacrifices, has saved its country from atrocities by the forces of Satan--who, with the backing of the two superpowers and other affiliated powers, has attacked our dear country--and has stood and will continue to stand against them like a giant barrier and a firm foundation.

It is very clear that Armed Forces Day this year is the day of an epic of the nation, a day of the country's pride and a day of pride for the army and the other armed forces.

Congratulating the armed forces is not a slogan but represents commonsense and reality, a reality which manifested itself on the battle fronts, a reality felt both by Saddam's people and the corps of Satan. Repeated and continuous blows dealt by the armed forces are examples of this reality. The world has registered this reality. Let the mercenary mass media say what they like and let them write whatever goes through their feeble minds. Let the foreign and internal Satans hatch any plots they fancy for creating discord among our powerful armed forces. These plots are a good indication of their weakness and failure.

Now all of our dear armed forces--fighting with a single aim, with peace of mind, sure of themselves and with faith in their hearts, side by side and as brothers--are engaged in a battle against godless executioners. Until the foundations of blasphemy are destroyed, they are determined to defend the rights of the world's human beings, the oppressed and the weak. May God Almighty assist them in their aim.

It is necessary to explain a few points, although they repeat what I have said before:

1. This year has been announced as the year of law. Therefore it is necessary to observe discipline and respect hierarchy in the army and the armed forces more than ever before and that the army and other Islamic forces will become more powerful and more cohesive. To commit a violation of this issue is a violation of law. I hope that by fraternity, by observing discipline and by eliminating harshness the Islamic Armed Forces will become invincible.

2. I assure the commanders and other personnel of the armed forces that their endeavors and self-sacrifices are appreciated by Almighty God and the honorable nation.

They must not listen to nonsensical words by some biased people and minigroups and should not allow weakness and worry to enter their minds. They must know that one of the satanic plans of the enemy is to create agitation and despondency. The noble nation recognizes that appreciation of the efforts of the armed forces is an Islamic and humane duty. The more you gain power, advance and defeat the enemy, the more the nation will appreicate you and the more they will increase their support for you. God Almighty is behind you and the nation is your faithful friend.

3. I beseech God to forgive the dear martyrs of the army and other armed forces and I ask for good health for the disabled and the defenders of Islam. I offer my congratulations and condolences to families of the martyrs. The dear ones must know that the noble nation shares their bereavement. I lost pride-creating children and you also sent your dear ones, whom you were proud of, to join others with God. May God provide you refuge and assist you. I once again praise this great day and beseech God to send you, my children, health and prosperity. May God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, 16 April 1981

FUEL DISTRIBUTORS TOLD TO FOLLOW WARTIME REGULATIONS

LD161450 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] In a statement, the court investigating wartime violations and crimes warned contractors and proprieters of urban road tankers of the following: In view of the importance of distributing fuels, whether gasoline, gasoil, fuel oil or keroseine in these senitive wartime circumstances, the distribution of gasoil and fuel oil should take place in accordance with the current regulations published by the mass media. If the delivery of gasoil to houses takes place in accordance with government orders for various companies, the driver and contractor involved will be dealt with in accordance with wartime regulations.

According to this statement, most fuel tankers, particularly those operating within the cities, have lacked the stipulated controls and seals since the revolution, and it is because of this shortcoming that all violations are taking place.

In conclusion, the court investigating wartime violations and crimes once again stringently warns all contractors, proprietors of tankers and responsible officials connected with the oil company and the contractors that, from this date on, for a period of 10 days all tankers distributing gasoil, fuel oil and kerosene should be tested by the workshops of the Oil Ministry and their faults should thereby be corrected. Should any infringements take place, apart from heavy fines in cash, their tankers will be expropriated and placed at the disposal of the war zone.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 470

LD161752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Communique 470 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. A summary of the battle operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 48 hours is brought to the attention of the Muslim nation of Iran as follows:

A. On the southern fronts:

On the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts, our combatants have superiority, the same as before, and by firing on enemy positions they destroyed 17 squad trenches, 2 ammunition trenches, 1 tank, 1 loader and 2 106-mm guns of the mercenaries and either killed or wounded at least 50 Iraqi personnel. In the Abadan region, one large enemy ammunition depot was completely destroyed by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the Dezful region, our brave combatants blew up one enemy ammunition dump, completely destroying one tank position along with its personnel and damaging two tanks, which were firing. On another front in this region, our mortars set ablaze and destroyed two observation trenches, two squad trenches, one tank and one vehicle of the Iraqi forces.

B. On the western fronts:

Clashes and exchanges of fire between Iraqi forces and our combatants continued along the western fronts. In the Marivan region, as a result of the artillery fire of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 50 Iraqi invaders were killed. In the Sumar region, our forces opened fire on two enemy patrols that were trying to approach our positions. As a result, 11 of the invaders were killed and 25 were wounded.

In the region of Kani-Sakht, combatants of the gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran, during a series of operations, destroyed one mortar emplacement and several Iraqi personnel. In the Zeleh Zard region, three personnel of Saddam were killed by our forces and eight others were wounded.

In Paveh, during an artillery battle between our forces and enemy units, two enemy squad trenches and one ammunition depot were set ablaze and several invading soldiers were either killed or wounded. On another western front, 2 squad trenches, 10 foxholes and several Iraqi personnel were destroyed.

In the Dehloran region, one enemy command post came under the fire of our heroes and was destroyed.

Zealous units of gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran, positioned in the western part of the country, opened heavy-weapons fire on the positions of Saddam's forces inside Iraqi territory and destroyed one observation tower, several buildings where enemy personnel were stationed, several trenches and foxholes and one enemy vehicle with 12 personnel in it.

Once again, six Iraqis, who had had enough of Saddam's cruelty and tyranny, presented themselves to the Sardasht Garrison and were given sanctuary by Islam.

ABADAN OIL INSTALLATIONS HIT IN 15 APR ATTACK

LD152143 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Summary] According to the Central News Bureau and PARS reports from Abadan, last night exchanges of heavy weapons fire occurred between coast guard personnel based on the bank of the Arvand Rud [Shatt al-'Arab] and the Iraqis on the other side of the waterway. One enemy trench was destroyed and other losses and casualties were inflicted.

Today, the Iraqis shelled the residential areas of Abadan. Several houses were damaged, 1 civilian was martyred and 19 others wounded.

Also today in an attack by Iranians on Iraqi positions in Tir Square in Abadan, three trenches were destroyed and a number of Iraqis were killed.

[Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1630 GMT on 16 April Cites a PARS report as saying that "Saddam's mercenaries last night opened long-range artillery fire on residential districts in Abadan and damaged several residential houses and oil installations. The self-sacrificing forces of Islam opened fire on the positions of the Iraqi mercenaries on the other side of the Arvand Rud, inflicting heavy damage and killing about 25 of them." Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1030 GMT on 17 April says that civilians were killed or injured last night in Abadan as a result of Iraqi artillery fire, according to PARS. The report adds that intense exchanges of artillery fire were in progress on all Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts last night and that the Iraqis suffered heavy casualties in the Meydan-e Tir area of Abadan. The report also notes that the Iraqis brought Abadan's residential areas under long-range artillery fire last night, killing and injuring civilians and damaging houses.]

RADIO IRAN REPORTS CLASHES OVER FOOD IN BIJAR

NC151827 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Text] Owing to a severe shortage of foodstuffs in Bijar and improper distribution by the revolution guards, clashes have broken out between the guards and people, with the people attacking Khomeyni's guards with sticks and stones. Reports indicate that the revolution guards opened fire on the people and that about 40 people and guards were either killed or injured.

RADIO IRAN NOTES CLASHES IN MASHHAD, TABRIZ

NC161836 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] During the past 3 days, the situation in Mashhad and Tabriz was tense and scattered clashes took place in various parts of these two cities between the people and Khomeyni's criminal Revolution Guards. Reports indicate that people of Mashhad and Tabriz, chanting the slogan "Death to Khomeyni," attacked government offices and gathered Khomeyni's pictures and burned them. The reports also say that Khomeyni's Revolution Guards fired on the people and that they retaliated with sticks and stones.

We do not have exact details on the number of deaths and injuries in Mashhad and Tabriz, but it is said that there were more than 50. [The clandestine Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1500 GMT on 16 April carried a report on the Tabriz incident noting that the people rioted there "following an antiregime demonstration and killed three Revolution Guards."]

FREE VOICE OF IRAN DISCUSSES SOVIET THREAT

NC161012 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The Soviet Union wants to make the best possible use of the situation created by Khomeyni in Iran as well as exploit, as best as possible, the fruits of the alleged anti-U.S. policy which his Islamic republic has adopted. Conditions are suddently to the Soviet Union's benefit. The clergy's foreign policy of "Neither West, nor East but an Islamic Republic" dips the scale in Moscow's favor and helps to turn Iran into a shield for Afghanistan's (?adversities). In order to make the Americans accept the Afghan problem as a fait accompli, Moscow wants to use Iran as a commodity, using our country's independence, freedom and sovereignty as a pawn.

Since the day Khomeyni's regime was established in Iran, the Soviet Government has taken on the role of its potential mentor. The more Tehran distanced itself from Washington, the more it actually brought itself closer to Moscow. Though occasionally it staged a ridiculous play to show that Khomeyni's Islamic Republic considered the East and the West as the same thing or , in other words, closed its eyes to both the East and West, these closed eyes were actually winking at the Soviet Union. Therefore it is not surprising to see that now, years later, the Soviet Union is the only side with which Khomeyni's republic holds active political, commercial and economic transactions. Nor is it surprising to see how obvious agents of the Soviet Union in Iran, like the Tudeh Party, unconditionally support Khomeyni's flimsy regime and--in support of the mullahs--inflict blows on the Bani-Sadr-Bazargan clique, calling them counterrevolutionaries, accusing them of having tendencies toward the West and listing them as U.S. agents in Iran.

A regime like Khomeyni's is a favorable tool for the Soviet Union. When Khruschev considered Iran as a rotten apple, that would sooner or later fall into the Soviet Union's lap, Iran was a prohibited country for the Soviet Union; its official agents' hands and feet were tied, its unofficial agents disbanded, and the Tudeh Party was only a vague memory.

If Khomeyni was a misfortune for Iran, he turned out to be a problem solver for the Soviet Union, someone of whom the Kremlin leaders had not even dreamed of. The Soviet Union never believed that Iran's affairs would fall into the hands of a person who could so rapidly destroy the strong Iranian army--once considered the fifth strongest in the world--and that he would try with all his might to destroy all other organizations, thus making Iran's revival virtually impossible.

The Soviet Union never believed that the country's leadership would fall into the hands of a man who would want to (?destroy) the Americans and contemptuously throw them out of Iran, turning a country known to the world as a full-fledged U.S. ally into a sworn enemy of the United States, insulting and abusing the United States as a daily entertainment for people beating their chests for Khomeyni.

The Soviet Union never believed that Iran--with its flourishing industry and agriculture, in which outstanding developments had been made, and which was rapidly finding a place among the world's developed countries, erasing all signs of the Middle Ages from its life--would be taken captive by a regime which would turn it back at the same speed at which it had been progressing, thereby creating fertile grounds near the southern borders of the USSR for the seeds of communism, which thrive on poverty and (?adversity).

Most important of all, the Soviet Union never believed that a religious regime would be formed in Iran which would sign a pact of partnership with the irreligious and anti-Islamic Tudeh Party. Although Khomeyni's hezbollahis have disbanded all other parties, the Tudeh Party has no limitations imposed on it and the secretaries general of the Islamic Republican Party and the Tudeh Party (?collude) with each other.

In short, Iran's present hell is an eternal paradise for the Soviet Union. Having devoured Afghanistan, they wish to have a share of Iran too. The Iranian nation has seen a lot of treason, however, and it is alert and will soon rise to save Iran and revive freedom. Compatriots: Iran's future is in our hands. Let us strive and do not be afraid. Let us prepare ourselves to inflict the final blow on Khomeyni's antinational regime. Long live Iran. Long live the Iranian nation. Down with Khomeyni's criminal regime.